



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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<http://edworkforce.house.gov/edwatch>

May 11, 2001

Home Schoolers Applaud Safeguards in *No Child Left Behind*

The Home School Legal Defense Association, representing 70,000 members nationwide, today thanked House Education & the Workforce Committee Chairman John Boehner for including a number of important provisions in President Bush's *No Child Left Behind* Act (H.R. 1) to protect home schools and private schools against federal intrusion.

"[W]e are encouraged that your committee recognized the importance of including important protections in the bill and we urge you to fight to retain these protections through the House floor and Conference Committee process," wrote J. Michael Smith, the organization's president, in a letter sent to Boehner Friday. "We share a common goal -- to provide the highest quality education to America's children. These protections will help home schools and private schools achieve this goal without the intrusion of federal bureaucrats."

The *No Child Left Behind* bill includes a number of prohibitions and safeguards that will ensure that the federal government does not intrude upon the sovereignty of home schools. The Home School Legal Defense Association noted that it was specifically pleased that H.R. 1 exempts home schools and private schools from any federal control in the ESEA or any other law and exempts home schools and private schools from any testing requirement mentioned in the ESEA.

Message of the Day

The *No Child Left Behind* bill includes vital safeguards against federal intrusion into home schools and private schools.

- *Education is fundamentally the province of states, local school districts, and parents -- not the federal government.*
- *H.R. 1 honors the sovereignty of home and private schools and will help them maintain their distinctiveness.*
- *The No Child Left Behind plan does not seek to unduly enhance the federal government's influence over education -- it seeks to **empower parents** and give them the information they need to make sound decisions for their children's future.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- H.R. 1 explicitly prohibits federally sponsored national testing, federally controlled curricula, and national teacher tests or certifications.
- The bill eliminates references to Goals 2000, outcome-based education, and school-to-work.
- The measure prohibits the creation of a national database of personally identifiable information.
- *No Child Left Behind* gives states the flexibility to use another test of student achievement other than NAEP to confirm the results of their state assessments.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"[H.R. 1] includes monumental reforms that promote real accountability, annual testing and funding flexibility. Parents need to know if their children are making progress, and this legislation meets that priority." **President George W. Bush, May 9, 2001**